

SPRINKLER SYSTEM

It is necessary to winterize all irrigation systems by shutting down the system at the “stop-and-waste valve” to release pressure in the pipes and drain the water from the system to protect any components that could freeze. Failure to drain the system usually results in broken sprinkler lines and flooded yard areas. By taking a little time this fall to winterize and shut off your stop-and-waste valve, you can prevent very costly repairs.

Locate the stop-and-waste valve, which is generally located on the service line between the water meter and the house. Once the system has been shut down, drain each sprinkler line. Some systems have drain valves that can be opened to drain the system, or it may be necessary to blow out the system using compressed air (you may wish to consult an irrigation professional for this service).



If your system is automated and has an electric controller, it needs to be set in the “Off” position for the winter.

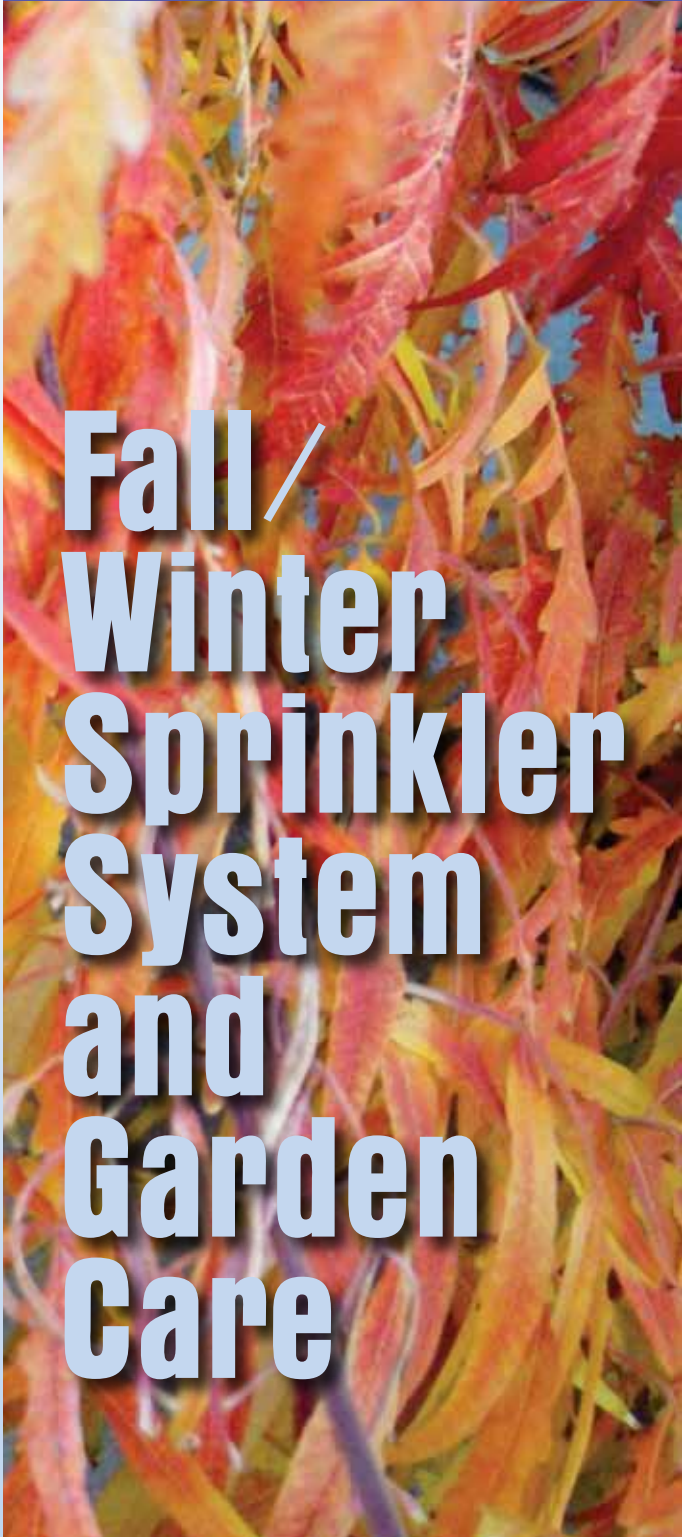
When spring arrives, inspect the sprinkler system by checking the sprinkler-control valves, sprinkler heads, and emitters to be sure they are not cracked or broken.

From April 15 to October 1, come visit Sandy City’s Water Conservation Garden, Sego Lily Gardens, at 1472 E. Sego Lily Drive. Our garden offers an opportunity to observe, first-hand, wonderful ways to be water-wise with colorful plants, to learn about different sprinkler systems, and how to make repairs and changes. For more information, visit our website at www.sandy.utah.gov.



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SANDY CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES



Fall/ Winter Sprinkler System and Garden Care

TREES

Caring for your trees and shrubs in winter does not take an awful lot of time or work, but there are a few things you should know and do that will keep your trees alive and healthy through the cold months of winter. Even native trees and shrubs will not mind a little pampering to get them through the cold, January inversion.



Trees set themselves up for the winter by a hardening off process where they decrease the amount of water in their tissues to prevent internal freezing and cell damage. Irrigation timers should be slowly turned down as cold weather approaches to help trees go to bed for the winter.

Put a few inches of mulch around the base of trees to insulate their roots from the cold, especially new trees. For tree species with thin bark, including most maple species, screening their trunks on the south and west exposures can prevent the quick thawing and freezing that damages the cells found within the bark. This damaging exposure, known as sun-scald, occurs on sunny, winter days and can be very damaging to newly-planted maples and can severely wound the trunk of the tree.

Knock the snow off of tree branches when it snows heavily.

Wrapping upright Junipers and Arborvitaes with burlap tree wrap will help them maintain their conical form throughout the winter and keep their branches from dropping and spreading when it snows heavily.

PLANTS/FLOWERS

Winter brings freezing temperatures in Utah, so it is necessary to take extra care of our plants, flowers, and lawns. The following tips will assist in maintaining your plants, flowers, and lawn:

Next to spring, fall is the best time to plant perennials in the garden.

Prepare planting beds for spring planting by digging in generous amounts of organic compost, leaving it rough enough to absorb winter moisture.

Cut back perennials such as Daylily, Phlox, Aster, and Veronica after the first hard-freeze (leave 2-inch stubs above the ground); divide Rhubarb after the first killing freeze.

Spread at least a 2-inch layer of fresh, organic mulch around all perennials to conserve moisture, protect from dry winds, and insulate roots from the cold winter.

Bed down your perennials, in preparation for the upcoming winter, by picking up and disposing of dead or diseased branches, foliage, and spent flowers.

Divide and transplant spring-blooming perennials in early autumn and water well. Pay special attention to plants growing under eaves and in containers. Water when temperatures stay above freezing. Check for garden dry spots.

Dig and store summer bulbs (Cannas, Dahlias, and Gladiolas).



Plant pansies to provide winter and spring color.

LAWNS

Fall is a terrific time for yard maintenance and garden planting because you can divide the workload and expense over two seasons (spring and fall).



Due to compaction during the growing season, aerate your lawn to increase air and water access to the deeper roots.

Fertilize your lawn to encourage root growth, rather than top growth (which means more mowing). Do not forget to water well after applying the fertilizer to minimize burning.

As the temperatures begin to cool, it is a good time to renovate and reseed cool-season grass lawns (i.e. Kentucky Blue Grass, etc.). This will encourage root growth and promises a greener lawn come springtime. Wait until early summer for warm-season grasses, such as Buffalo Grass.

Scale back your watering as precipitation increases and temperatures decrease. Do not forget to drain and shut off your overhead sprinkler system before the first freeze; otherwise, you might find yourself spending more money in the spring to replace water lines. Please see Sprinkler System section for more specific details.